

Michael Geurin is fighting for his life.

He was born with an undeveloped tricuspid on the lower right side of his heart. At just four days old he received his first heart catheter, and at 10 months old he underwent his first open-heart surgery. When he was two years old, the first of many pacemakers was implanted. Even with these challenges, Michael was able to have a relatively normal life as a child, aside from the fact that he was unable to play sports like the rest of the boys his age.

Sadly, in 1994, he began experiencing shortness of breath and learned his heart was enlarged. **With tears in his eyes, Michael's cardiologist told him he needed a heart transplant to survive. Michael was only 17.** Thankfully, he received a heart transplant in 1995 and lived a healthy, active life for 14 years. Recently Michael learned veins around his heart were closed off and no longer working properly. He is currently undergoing evaluations for a second heart transplant.

Despite his health issues, Michael remains positive about his life and is hopeful for a long, happy future with his soon-to-be wife, Anne. He loves his work as a youth pastor, and hopes to continue working with the young people in his church until his health forces him to stop. He wants nothing more than to feel healthy again. But he needs your help.

Unfortunately, Michael's hope for a new life comes at a very high price.

A heart transplant costs approximately \$775,000.

And that's only the beginning. Michael faces significant medical expenses related to his transplant. For the rest of his life, he will need follow-up care and daily anti-rejection medications. The cost of post-transplant medications can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month—and they are as critical to his survival as the transplant itself.

What if your life depended on the compassion and generosity of others?

The National Foundation for Transplants (NFT) is working with volunteers and supporters to help relieve the growing burden of expenses for Michael and his family. NFT has been assisting transplant patients with advocacy and fundraising support for 26 years. Your gift—of \$25, \$50, \$100 or

more—will enable NFT to provide Michael with the financial support he desperately needs.

**You can help by visiting
www.transplants.org/donate/michaelgeurin to make a
donation to NFT in honor of Michael.**

If you have any questions about NFT, feel free to contact the NFT staff at 800-489-3863.

Michael is serving as youth pastor at Thunderbird Baptist church on Highway 9 east of Norman. His pastor is Paul Carter. You can email Paul for more information at pcarter128@sbcglobal.net.